

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the last paragraph of page 8 of the specification to read as follows:

Now referring to FIG. 2, there is shown a network 36 according to the present invention. A secondary host 32 masquerades as the sending host 30 in the sending of the message to the destination 31. More than one host may act as a masquerading host, but one is shown for simplicity in the illustration. In this case, the masquerading host may coordinate its actions with the original source in the goal to for improving message reception at the destination or balancing the load experienced by the rim or a combination of both. In this example, 30 and 32 comprise the rim for the particular case shown, but in general the rim is comprised of an arbitrary number of hosts which may change over time. It should be noted that the network provided path from host 30 to host 31 may be different than the network provided path from host 30 to host 32 and thence to host 31.

Please amend the first paragraph of page 9 of the specification to read as follows:

FIG. 3 depicts an alternative embodiment of the network 36 of FIG. 2 with specialized network resource 37 for communication between the sending 30 and masquerading 32 host. Since coordination of, and/or transfer of, the original message between these two hosts is necessary, such a dedicated facility may enhance the overall system. In current Internet terminology, this capability would generally be called a Virtual Private Network (VPN).

Please amend the paragraph bridging pages 9 and 10 as follows:

In another embodiment, the source host (or other resource) "D" 38 is outside the rim. The hosts in the rim still act in a masquerading fashion to improve delivery of the message to the destination. To effect collaboration, each masquerader may independently, or in some

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cooperative fashion, access the remote host "D"38 to obtain the parts of the message they are responsible for sending. The original sending host may be either one of the masquerading rim set hosts or 'D' 38 itself, in which case, the rim hosts are effectively acting as a dynamically changing proxy for 'D'38. In another form, a host external to the rim hosts, also 'D'38, is accessed as needed by hosts in the rim to supply the message.